

Mexican War (July 1846 - Jan 1847)

Those of the Mormon Battalion, Who Settled in Timpanogos Valley, Utah:

Elisha Averett (1810-1890) Muscian in Company A of the Mormon Battalion and Master Stone Mason. He was in Heber City only a short time, in Apr 1861, 1863 and Dec 1875. He married three times during his life: (1) Dorcus Willis, (2) Sarah Jane Witt, (3) Cherizade Grimes. They lived in various places in Washington Co., Utah, Idaho, and Nevada. Elisha's Son --named Elisha who md Annie Catherine Sedarville, dau of Grandma Skogg. This Elisha did live in Heber, Wasatch Co., Utah and was a Master Stone Mason, and contributed much to the building up of this community.

James Camp Greer of the Battalion, was related to the Greers of Wallsburg, but did not settle in this vicinity. He was born 12 Jan 1828, in Alabama and served as pvt in Co B of the Battalion. After his duty was completed, he returned to Tennessee to sell family property, became serious ill and died there.

William Wallace Casper was pvt and advanced to Major in Co A of the Battalion. He finally settled in Millcreek in SL Co., Utah. However, his son, William Nephi Casper did settle in this area, near Charleston.

James Barnett Cole, born 22 Aug 1828, in Concord, Ohio to Barnett and Phoebe Vanalstine Cole, served as pvt in Co D of the Mormon Battalion. He married Lucy Ward and after his tour of duty, they lived in various towns around Utah, including: Willard, Provo, Heber in Wasatch Co., Payson, Sandy, Richmond, Ogden, and later to Plymouth where he was killed on 7 June 1876.

Ephriam Knowlton Hanks, born 21 Mar 1826 in Madison, Lake, Ohio to Benjamin and Martha Knowlton Hanks. Ephriam served well in the Battalion as pvt in Co B learning very much and going on to become one of the valued western scouts--particularly for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. He married: (1) Harriet Amelia Decker, (2) Jane Maria Capener, (3) Hannah Hardy, and (4) Thisbe Quilley Read. Ephriam lived in the Charleston area for considerable time. As a Mormon Scout he had many and diverse responsibilities which demanded his attention in many areas. He finally died in Pleasant Creek, Wayne Co., Utah. A number of his progeny remain in Timpanogos Valley region.

Zemira Palmer was born 9th Aug 1831, in the province of Upper Canada, to George and Phoebe Draper Palmer. His father, George, died in 1835, leaving Phoebe with seven children. Near this time Phoebe was given a blessing by Prophet Joseph Smlith that she would be blessed with a good companion, who would be a man of God, and that she would be able to bring up her family proper. She was part of the saints who were driven from Kirtland to Missouri, and then to Kirtland and on to Nauvoo, Illinois. In Nauvoo, she met and married Ebenezer Brown.who had lost his wife, Ann kWeaver on 20 July

1842 in Quincy Illinois, leaving him with five children. Ebenezer volunteered into the Mormon Battalion to defend the US Government against Mexico. Phoebe volunteered as a laundress in the same contingent. Ebenezer served very well as 2nd Sergeant in Co A.

Zemira Palmer was not old enough to join as a soldier, but did volunteer as a servant to the officers, at or near 14 yrs of age. Rations were sparse, but Phoebe managed.. Ebenezer was not mustered out of the Battalion till 14 Mar 1848. The Browns terried in the Sacramento area panning for gold for a time and got to SLCU in about 1849. They moved to South Willow Creek in 1850 and were the first family to build a home in what is now known as Draper, Utah. Ebenezer died there 26 Jan 1878.

Zemira Palmer married (1) Sally Knight, dau of Newell Knight, on 1st of Dec 1851, and in 1856, married (2) Caroline Jacques. They moved to the Heber Fort in 1860. He served in the Echo Canyon War against Johnston's Army. Zemira was later called to live the United Order in Orderville, Utah. He died there at 49, on 22 Oct 1880.

John Sessions was born 22 Aug 1820, in White County, Illinois, to Richard & Lucretia Haws Sessions. In early July 1846, John married Caroline Emeline Sessions. John volunteered to join the Mormon Battalion in 1846, and served as a pvt in Co A. during the Mexican War campaign, and his young bride volunteered as a Laundress in the same company. His father, Richard, and younger brother, William Bradford Sessions served as privates also in that same Co. A. Their families remained behind with the main body of saints. As the Battalion advanced, and at a point, a number of men and women became disabled, sick, or worn. It was decided to send this sick detachment to Pueblo Colorado under command of Capt. John Brown on 16 Sep 1846, In this group were 16 families. They spent the winter of 1846 and 1847 in Pueblo. The Spring of 1847 this group were dispatched to SL Valley and arrived there 29 July 1847, five days after the first band of Pioneers under the leadership of Brigham Young. Mrs John Sessions, (Caroline Emeline Sessions Sessions) was detached from the Battalion 17 Oct 1846.

Richard Sessions born 28 Apr 1799 in Logan Co. Kentucky, to Solomon & Mary Hargraves or Hargreaves. He married Lucretia Haws, dau of Jacob & Hannah Neil, or Neal, on 14 April 1821, in White Co Illinois. He joined the Mormon Battalion in 1846 with 2 sons: John and William Bradford and John's wife, who joined as a laundress in Co A. This seems to be a record: 4 members of one family, joining with the Ballalion. Richard was made a Seventy in the LDS Church and then made a counsellor of Bishop Terry while in Mosquito Creek, Iowa. Richard also distinguished himself in the 13th Regiment and First Brigade of the Illinois Mounted Volunteers, in the Illinois Blackhawk Indian War, before he joined the Mormon Battalion. He and son William Bradford made the entire 200 mile mach with that Battalion to San Diego, California from Camp Kearney Nebraska. His son John and young wife were dispatched to Pueblo with the sick detachment. After arriving in Provo Utah, he was called as 2nd Counsellor to Bishops Fawsett and later William Madison Wall the the First LDS Ward. He was a very early settler in Heber, Wasatch, Utah and became a prominent farmer and stock raiser. He died in Heber on 23 Mar 1979.

William Bradford Sessions was born 23 Jan 1827 in Wayne, DuPage Co., Illinois to Richard and Lucretia Haws Sessions. He married Catherine Yager in 1840 in Wayne Co., Illinois. He joined the Battalion with his father, Richard and his older brother, John. William B. was mustered out in San Diego Calif. They searched for gold in Calif before returning to Utah. He died in Heber, Utah

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